



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased four-tenths of a percentage point to 3.8 percent from October to November of 2000 (see Northeast Table 1). This rate stayed constant from November 1999. The Bonneville LMA's unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the state's unemployment rate of 4.9 percent and two-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.0 percent.

Over the month, the seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 420 people. The number of unemployed persons increased by 320 people, or 11.4 percent, and the number of employed persons increased by 100 people. Over the year, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 1,060 people, with a decrease of 10 unemployed people. The yearly increase in the number of employed was 1,070.

For November, Bonneville and Butte Counties showed the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.3 percent each, followed by Bingham and Jefferson Counties at 4.4 and 4.5 percent, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, had an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent for the month, increasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month and decreasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous year.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 320 jobs for the month, with the loss coming from both the *Goods-Producing Industries* and the *Service-Producing Industries*. A decrease of 140 jobs occurred in *Construction* as winter set in and slowed down outdoor work. Two other industries that added to the overall decrease are *Services* and *Government Administration*. *Services* lost 220 jobs because of decreased activity in the two sectors of *Amusement, Recreation* and *Hotels/Lodging*. This is a natural time of year for both sectors to decrease in employment. *Government Administration* lost over 600 jobs with the *Local Administration* sector losing the majority of the jobs due to seasonal layoffs. Other slight decreases were seen in *Retail Trade*, losing 70 jobs, and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and *All Other Manufacturing*, losing 40 jobs collectively.

Over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

| | Nov 2000* | Oct 2000 | Nov 1999 | % Change From | |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | Last Month | Last Year |
| INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE | | | | | |
| Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 82,950 | 82,530 | 81,890 | 0.5 | 1.3 |
| Unemployment | 3,130 | 2,810 | 3,140 | 11.4 | -0.3 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 3.8% | 3.4% | 3.8% | | |
| Total Employment | 79,820 | 79,720 | 78,750 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Unadjusted | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 82,990 | 84,050 | 81,910 | -1.3 | 1.3 |
| Unemployment | 2,650 | 2,300 | 2,650 | 15.2 | 0.0 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 3.2% | 2.7% | 3.2% | | |
| Total Employment | 80,340 | 81,750 | 79,260 | -1.7 | 1.4 |
| JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK | | | | | |
| Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** | | | | | |
| Goods-Producing Industries | 9,360 | 9,480 | 9,580 | -1.3 | -2.3 |
| Mining & Construction | 4,170 | 4,310 | 4,380 | -3.2 | -4.8 |
| Manufacturing | 5,190 | 5,170 | 5,200 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Food Processing | 2,740 | 2,680 | 2,890 | 2.2 | -5.2 |
| Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip. | 540 | 570 | 530 | -5.3 | 1.9 |
| All Other Manufacturing | 1,910 | 1,920 | 1,780 | -0.5 | 7.3 |
| Service-Producing Industries | 53,830 | 54,030 | 51,980 | -0.4 | 3.6 |
| Transportation, Comm., & Utilities | 2,430 | 2,390 | 2,310 | 1.7 | 5.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | 6,080 | 5,890 | 5,980 | 3.2 | 1.7 |
| Retail Trade | 11,620 | 11,690 | 11,250 | -0.6 | 3.3 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 2,010 | 1,870 | 1,890 | 7.5 | 6.3 |
| Services | 21,300 | 21,520 | 20,500 | -1.0 | 3.9 |
| Government Administration | 5,180 | 5,870 | 4,800 | -11.8 | 7.9 |
| Government Education | 5,210 | 4,800 | 5,250 | 8.5 | -0.8 |
| *Preliminary Estimate | | | | | |
| **Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month | | | | | |

creased by 2.6 percent, or 1,630 jobs, from November 1999. *Goods-Producing Industries* showed a decrease of 220 jobs, with *Construction* fronting the majority of the decrease (210 jobs) and *Manufacturing* taking the balance (10 jobs). In *Manufacturing*, the *Food Processing* sector lost 150 jobs while *All Other Manufacturing* (including *Durables* and *Nondurables*) gained 130 jobs. *Service-Producing Industries* showed an increase of 1,850 jobs. *Services* increased by 800 jobs, with *Business Services* and *Engineering & Management* being the largest contributors at over 200 jobs each. All sectors increased in the *Services* industry with the exception of *Hospitals*—that declined by only 30 jobs. Other large contributors in the *Service-Producing Industries* increase were noted in *Government Administration* and *Retail Trade* which both saw increases of over 350 jobs. Losses were seen in *Government Education* only with a decrease of 40 jobs.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Golden Eagle Sales changed location to a new 22,500 square-foot building in November. A spin-off of B&F Distributing, the company is a regional distributor of wine and specialty-brand beers. On June 1 the company was taken over by Southern Idaho Distributing, which needed its existing warehouse on Iona Road. B&F's new warehouse is located in the Heyrend Indus-

trial Park off Yellowstone Avenue in Idaho Falls and gives the company more square footage, more refrigerated space, and room to expand if needed.

- Center Partners added approximately 150 employees between July and December of 2000 after opening another building and adding new contracts. Center Partners, a Colorado-based business that specializes in training customer service workers to answer technical questions on office equipment, officially announced the opening of their second call center earlier in October. The new building is located just west of their other location on International Way in Idaho Falls.
- X-Men Big and Tall Men's Apparel opened the middle of November at 343 Park Avenue in Idaho Falls. The store caters to men's sizes 1XLT to 8X, who usually find selection very limited. Paul and Wendy Hathaway, the new owners, say their research showed that this type of store did not exist between Boise and Salt Lake City.
- The Thai House opened at 366 Shoup Avenue, previously Ada's Café, at the end of 2000. Pete and Jirawan Kwanmongkhon, the new owners, moved to Idaho Falls from Oregon where they had been in the restaurant business. Although Far Eastern cuisine is plentiful in the area, this is only the second Thai location in Idaho Falls.
- The Carr Foundation gave a donation of \$3 million to help expand the Bonneville Museum in December. The expansion will triple the size of the historical museum and will connect it to the old Masonic Temple. The construction and renovation will start this spring and should be completed by 2002. Greg Carr is the founder of Boston Technology, a former chairman of Prodigy, and an Idaho Falls native. The hope is that the museum will become a tourist attraction and have a domino effect on downtown Idaho Falls renovation projects.
- Century 21 Hathaway-Genta of Rexburg merged with Century 21 Advantage of Idaho Falls in December. Although the Rexburg office will keep its location, employees, and telephone number, the newly formed union feels that they will better be able to service the entire area by working together with changes that BYU-Idaho will be bringing. A host of new service innovations will be offered in the next few months.
- Global Travel in Idaho Falls has now added a second location in the Grand Teton Mall. It specializes in travel needs and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. It is located near ZCMI and across from DeMarcos. The phone number is 535-9900.
- The Teton Plaza on 17th Street has a new store called Computer Recyclers. The company has several stores located throughout southeastern Idaho and specializes in lease returns from businesses, but anyone can shop there for used computer equipment. The store opened in December.
- World Gym will open on Woodruff Avenue between

Smith's Food King and Godfather's Pizza in February with a grand opening scheduled for April. The gym will occupy 20,000 square feet, have a climbing wall, experienced staff to help with exercise routines, and will offer a playland for children. More information is available at 552-5033 or 390-9238.

- The Rio Theater closed doors on January 11 after 81 years of operation. The Rio's owners, Carmike Cinemas of Georgia, already filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and recently closed their triplex on North Yellowstone this past summer.

Madison County

- Sonic Drive-In plans to open a fast-food restaurant in Rexburg on North Second East in the spring. Sonics have a unique set-up where customers order food through speakers located at individual vehicle stations and the food is delivered by carhops on roller skates (weather agreeable). The restaurant offers specialties such as hamburgers, cheese coney, onion rings, tater tots, and fountain favorites. It hopes to employ 60-70 workers when it opens.
- Melaleuca Inc. opened its Rexburg international call center this month after five months of renovation. It is located on Main Street and currently employs 150 people. The renovation cost more than \$1 million. The center can take advantage of the diversity of fluent languages that many Ricks College students and Rexburg residents speak for servicing their clientele internationally. Melaleuca specializes in health, cleaning, and beauty aides for customers around the globe.

Teton County

- Two restaurants opened in the county in November. Cancun opened under new ownership on Main Street in Driggs and offers Mexican cuisine. Lucinda and Leopoldo Hernandez, along with Rita Jo Collins, are the new owners. Miso Hungry opened as a new café in Driggs on Main Street. The restaurant shares a location with Main Street Art. Dana Nelson of Victor and Tanya Alexander of Teton are the owners. Miso Hungry offers healthy food with a lot of taste, such as miso soup, Boars Head deli meat and deli cheese, and various baked goods and homemade breads. It also offers various blends of organic coffee with lattes, espressos and cappuccinos.
- Valley Preschool and Early Development Center plans to open in Victor this month. Kim Sapone, the new owner, plans to offer a liberal-arts approach to education to give the children more opportunity to learn with hands-on interaction. Staff members and volunteers will have to pass a full criminal history check including fingerprinting and FBI screening, and will need to be CPR certified.

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